## Remarks

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 6-8, 13-15 and 20-25 are presented for examination.

Claims 1, 6-8, 13-15 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Araujo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,350) in view of Milbrandt (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,120) and further in view of Oshins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,155,379). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Araujo in view of Milbrandt and Oshins.

Araujo discloses methods for detecting a protocol used on a link and for automatically configuring the link. For example, to help avoid requiring a craftsperson to configure each link between a subscriber and the central office, the invention includes a method for automatically determining a protocol used by the customer premises equipment. This information can then be used to automatically configure the link to use the protocol used by the customer premises equipment. The invention also includes the method for configuring the link by negotiating between the customer premises equipment and the central office such that a protocol is used on the link that helps to provide efficient transmission over the link and through a backbone network coupled to the central office. For example, if the customer premises equipment initially uses a frame-based protocol and the backbone network coupled to the central office uses a cell-based protocol, then the central office equipment negotiates with the customer premises equipment to use a cell-based protocol over the link. The use of the same or related protocol over the link as on the backbone network helps to improve the efficiency of transmission over the link and the backbone network by reducing the amount of

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computation required at the central office to translate between protocols. See Araujo at col. 5, ll. 16-40

Milbrandt discloses a communication device supporting an Ethernet protocol. See Milbrandt at col. 5, ll. 3.

Oshins discloses a Plug and Play Manager loading a device driver associated with a PCI device. See Oshins at col. 6, ll. 50-52.

Claim 1 of the present application recites selecting first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specify the first communication protocol, selecting second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol and in response to the selecting, invoking a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of the first or second drivers into memory.

Applicant submits that nowhere in Araujo, Milbrandt and Oshins each fail to disclose or suggest a process of a PnP protocol manager loading into memory a first driver to implement an Ethernet protocol or a second driver to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol. Particularly, neither Araujo nor Milbrandt disclose a concept of using software drivers to implement particular protocols. Further, Oshins simply discloses loading a device driver associated with a PCI device. Therefore, any combination of Araujo, Milbrandt and Oshins would not disclose or suggest a PnP protocol manager loading into memory a first driver to implement an Ethernet protocol or a second driver to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol. As a result, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over a combination of Araujo, Milbrandt and Oshins.

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Claims 8 and 15 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, claims 8 and 15, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over the combination of Araujo, Milbrandt and Oshins for reasons similar to those recited in claim 1.

Claim 22 of the present application recites a circuit board that includes a circuit card slot that is capable of coupling the circuit card to the circuit board.

Applicant submits that neither Araujo, Milbrandt nor Oshins disclose or suggest a circuit board that includes a circuit card slot that is capable of coupling a circuit card to a circuit board. Accordingly, any combination of Araujo, Milbrandt and Oshins would not disclose or suggest such a feature. As a result, claim 22 and its dependent claims are patentable over the combination of Araujo, Milbrandt and Oshins.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.
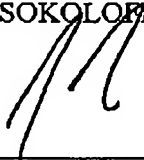
Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

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Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: May 27, 2008

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